

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
Draft
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2011

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, CA 92101

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair
Bruce Brown - arrived 2:03
Rick Bussell
Claudia Dunaway
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Roz King - arrived 2:05
David Kinney
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds - arrived 2:07
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

William Diehl

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Scott Reese
Rumi Doherty
Kathleen Hasenauer
Patty Jencks
Jo-Ann Novak
Deborah Sharpe
Ken So
Shannon Thomas

CALL TO ORDER – Chair, Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 18, 2011 and SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz/Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the August 18, 2011 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimously approved (6-0).

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz/Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the September 15, 2011 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimously approved (6-0).

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – None

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No Report

Community Parks II Area Committee

- Ms. King thanked Mr. Smith and Ms. LoMedico for attending. Ms. LoMedico provided clarification on the new language for the Special Use Permit and Special Operating

procedures. The Committee is looking forward to continuing the discussion on the permits.

- Ms. King announced this was her last Board meeting, as a replacement has been appointed. She stated the staff has been excellent to work with and appreciates Ms. LoMedico for being a strong supportive Director.

Balboa Park Committee – No Report

Design Review Committee – No Report

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens’ Advisory Committee – No Report

Mission Bay Park Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported that Mission Bay Park has two new park rangers on board.
- Eleven of the 28 comfort stations have been closed for the season.
- Sea World’s staff presented an item on a proposed projects within the leasehold.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens’ Advisory Committee – No Report

Tecolote Canyon Citizens’ Advisory Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported the San Diego Canyonlands requested a letter of support for 26.2 acres of land dedication to be added to the park.

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee – No Report

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.)

Ms. Granowitz has been on a steering committee for the past six months looking at the feasibility of providing a street car to Balboa Park. One specific plan was selected, and she was wondering if the Board would like a presentation on the plan.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Mr. Smith distributed a newsletter from San Diego Friends of Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Mr. Smith stated in view of the economic conditions in the City, park development will be hampered for some time to come. He feels we have to be creative in parks and is proposing to do a workshop on park planning to include the following, but not limited to:

- Design
- Land Acquisition
- Increasing Functionally
- Park Development in Light of Water Conservation
- Quimby Act has lapsed. Possibility of Park Master Plan
- Urban Open Spaces
- Quality of Life Issues
- Possible Joint Meeting with Planning Commission to Discuss Topics
- Possibility of a Park Board (last one 1978)
- Park Master Plan

Mr. Smith is not looking to increase the work load for staff, but would like to have the Board do a “brain storming” session.

Mr. Stepner provided an article that list five points on “What Makes a Good Park”.

Mr. Stepner would like the Board to take the lead on this session and not burden staff with additional work.

Ms. LoMedico stated the Board is typically dark in December, and based on the information and different topics she will put some things together into; definitions, overviews, organization charts for the different departments, etc...for January 2012. She will work with Mr. Smith and Mr. Stepner and have something to the Board Members in December so they may have time to review for the January meeting.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds agrees to a meeting, and would like to use the volunteers (Board Members) to outreach to the community and meet in a church to get some community input. She would like a dialogue with San Diego Foundation about their vision of San Diego, and encourage San Diego Union Tribune to do a set of articles.

Ms. Granowitz would like some section of the Recreation Element and the equivalencies included in the presentation.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds asked if a park bond could finance the Park Master Plan. (Ms. LoMedico stated this is a comprehensive report to put together for the first workshop. She added the City has discussed for some time with the Department and Planning Departments staff that a comprehensive master plan is the first step to issuing a bond.)

Mr. Greene stated water is very expensive and feels some of the planning should include getting some of the recycle water into future planning of parks. (Ms. LoMedico will ensure she will bring the report from the Water Department that they did on Re-Use and Retrofit.)

The San Diego Unified School District Medi-Cal Reinvestment Collaborative makes decisions to distribute medical money through the schools. They have asked the Park and Recreation Board for a representative to help with this undertaking. Ms. Dunaway has volunteered to be the Board representative. Mr. Smith has appointed her to fulfill this position.

Mr. Smith was informed that this will be the last meeting for Ms. Puentes-Reynolds, Mr. Greene and Ms. King. On behalf of the Board he thanked the three for their dedicated service and will miss their comments, good judgment, and wisdom.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds apologized for not doing the bylaws a couple of years ago due to illness. She thanked Mayor Murphy for her appointment to the Park and Recreation Board. She thanked all the staff of Park and Recreation Department and all the Board Members.

Mr. Greene thanked all for the wonderful opportunity of 11 years (8 year term) of service on the Park and Recreation Board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico thanked Ms. King, Mr. Greene and Ms. Puentes-Reynolds for their service.
- Ms. LoMedico received a request at the last meeting to determine if the walk-way from the parking lot to the Old Globe Theatre is a safety issue. Ms. LoMedico reported staff was working on some repairs for this area.
- Ms. LoMedico received a request at the last meeting from a citizen to clarify policies on cleaning of the beach at Children's Pool in La Jolla. Park and Recreation Department staff do not hand clean any of the 26 miles of beach. Department staff only use mechanizes equipment and if there is no access, do not have the staff to hand clean the sand. In 2010 staff had supervised cleanings at the pool. Lifeguard staff cleaned the beach area in 1950's prior to opening the life guard towers.
- A new ranger was hired in Developed Regional Parks who will start November 15th at Children's Pool.
- Invitations were sent out for the Balboa Park Golf Course Irrigation System Ribbon Cutting to take place on November 2, 2011.
- Ms. LoMedico announced the retirement of Ms. Novak, Executive Secretary, of Administrative Services and Mr. Tom Wood, District Manager, of Community Parks I. Ms. LoMedico expects many more staff retirements in March 2012
- The Board may be dark in December if there are no critical items and if any other items can go on the November or January agenda.

ACTION ITEMS – None

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Community Gardens

Mr. Reese, Assistant Director, Park and Recreation Department provided a brief update on the Community Gardens time-line and provided a current draft of the Community Garden Department Instruction for further review and comment.

Board Members Comments and Questions:

Mr. Bussell thanked Mr. Reese for the great job on the draft Department Instructions for Community Gardens. He asked what are the potential cost for Community Garden or guidelines. (Mr. Reese stated there is a cost estimating form available on the Park and Recreation Department website. Mr. Reese will correct the application acronym for Community Garden CG.)

Mr. Bussell asked if this is only City properties managed by Park and Recreation Department or is it separate. (Mr. Reese stated this is only managed by properties assigned to Park and Recreation Department.)

Mr. Bussell asked if there are some consistency in plan or will plans be different for parks and City land? (Mr. Reese stated no, standards are representative of best practices.)

Ms. King asked what is the group cost for a permit. (Ms. LoMedico responded that Right of Entry Permit fees are \$600 and no costs associated with Special Use Permits.)

Ms. King asked how will the utilities be separated from park cost. (Mr. Reese stated there are two ways to separate cost for utilities one is to install a new meter and bill the Community Garden directly or install a sub-meter and bill Community Garden Group.)

Mr. Brown recommend staff look at the language for potential lawsuits in case of food poisoning.

Mr. Bussell stated the Linda Vista Farmers Market goal is to provide fresh organic produce to the local community. (Ms. LoMedico stated dedicated parkland and parks are to provide for recreational amenities. The intent of park land use for community gardens is not for commercial produce sale.)

Mr. Smith strongly suggest that gardens be for recreational activity only. He also reminded all that the Costco at Market Street was a community garden and caused a “work-pill” for staff in the 70’s.

202. Proposed Changes to Municipal Code Chapter 6 as it pertains to Park Permits

Ms. LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director and Ms. Thomas, Deputy City Attorney provided a presentation on the proposed changes to Municipal Code Chapter 6 as it pertains to park permits.

Board Members Comments and Questions:

Mr. Brown asked what is the lead time needed for volunteer organizations to receive a permit. (Ms. LoMedico stated permits may be issued a year in advance.) What is the cost for volunteer organizations? (If it is determined that it needs to have an environmental review, the initial Development Services Department’s analysis/review will cost \$193 and the cost for the appeal process for the environmental determination can run over \$5,000. A formal document from Development Services Department on both of these items will be available.)

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds asked if large events would need to go through this process of higher level of scrutiny. (Ms. LoMedico responded: Yes, if a large park activity or event brings 10,000 or more people and close roads, it would have to go through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.)

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds would like to make sure we don’t lose some of the special events, but understands we need to protect our parks. (Ms. Shannon stated the only change in practice will be that these organizations will receive a reservation for their event and take that to the Special Events Office.)

Mr. Bussell stated some large events are outside the summer moratorium. (Ms. LoMedico stated the moratorium is Memorial Day to Labor Day and as the Municipal Ordinance states there would still be a reservation used for these events.)

Ms. King asked how are the “flash mob” events monitored. (Ms. LoMedico stated every effort is made to outreach to those individuals that have an event at a park if we know about it. Typically, during “flash mob” if approached by a staff person there is no one person to identify the event organizer. This is in terms of organized events. We do not monitor "flash mobs" unless they are at a park site with dedicated staff.)

Ms. Granowitz and Mr. Kinney wrote advisory policy and Department staff implemented these policies. Ms. Granowitz thanked Department staff for their work. Ms. Granowitz held up her binder that contained 2008 events for Balboa Park and downtown areas.

Ms. Granowitz stated permitting fees are so low that organizations set-up a Sunday event starting on Thursday. This causes lost of free and open parkland. Events that start out with 400 people have morphed into 10,000 people in three years time. It appears that event organizers feel they are entitled to be there. There is a need to review these special events. Ms. Granowitz would like to have parks available for people who just want to go to the park and not attend the special event.

Mr. Kinney thanked staff for the tremendous work done on permits. He asked in determining capacity is it strictly limited to number of people on a space or does it include impacts to parking and traffic. (Ms. LoMedico said staff is looking at the space available only and not looking at road closures.)

Mr. Kinney asked in determining capacity for long standing events that now exceed capacity how will these be handled? (Ms. LoMedico stated any event that exceeds capacity will require a reservation of space, and require or go to Development Services for a Special Event Permit.) (Ms. Thomas stated there shouldn't be any large events that were previously under or at capacity that are now over capacity. The goal is to compile what staff were already doing.)

Mr. Greene understanding is at Mission Trails Regional Park only handle two events a month. If another organization would like an event, does the advisory committee review? (Ms. LoMedico read page 2 of 5 of the ordinance changes to clarify their role.)

WORKSHOP – None

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, November 17, 2011 2:00 P.M.**

**City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director